

in this country to address global warming is more pressing than ever, especially in light of the mounting scientific reports from around the world. There is no longer any real debate within the scientific community.

There is broad scientific consensus that global warming exists, and we must act. We still have the opportunity to reverse the negative effects of global climate change. However, this must be done both here at home and in cooperation around the world. That is why, just before Earth Day this past weekend, my colleague and I, MARK KIRK, introduced H. Con. Res 104, a bipartisan resolution expressing the need for the U.S. to participate in international agreements that address global climate change and to put this Congress on record acknowledging climate change.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill. There is a companion in the Senate. Please join me in taking this early step to begin addressing climate change in this country and around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENTS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 179) expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 179

Whereas the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the very foundation of our communities, and our United States;

Whereas foster families, who open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children heal and reconnect and in launching those children into successful adulthood;

Whereas over 500,000 youth are in foster care with at least 380,000 in a family-home setting;

Whereas numerous individuals and public and private organizations work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in foster care and leaving foster care as well as of the enduring and valuable contributions of foster parents; and

Whereas those families who are able to serve a role as foster parents should be wholeheartedly encouraged to do so: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) a National Foster Parents Day should be established to recognize the contributions of foster parents across the Nation; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for foster parents across the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative NANCY BOYDA from Kansas.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, in the late 1980s, a Topeka couple, Clifford and Phyllis Oshel, welcomed a foster child into their homes and into their hearts. For 2 years, they provided shelter, food, and, more importantly, caring. Through their patient guidance, they led that child from a time of crisis to what he now calls "the best years of my life."

That child's name was Kevin Surbaugh. Ever since he left the Oshels' house, he has worked to repay his debt of gratitude. For 17 years, he has fought tirelessly for a national day of recognition for foster parents, one day of the year, just one day, to honor their contributions, and to respect their sacrifices.

Soon after I was sworn into Congress, Kevin approached my office and told me about his mission. At Kevin's urging, I now submit for your consideration the National Foster Parents Day resolution. I ask you to join me in saying thank you, not only to Clifford and Phyllis Oshel, but to the hundreds of thousands of foster parents across our great Nation.

When I think back to the support I received from my mom and dad, I recognize the crucial role of our parents. My mom set me on the path that has led me to Congress today. She taught me my faith. She taught me to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. She taught me to speak to everyone in a room no matter what their role or position. She also taught me never to wear white shoes after Labor Day. All of her words of wisdom led me to where I am today.

In a perfect world, every child's biological parents would play the role that my parents played for me. But sometimes a family can't provide a safe, supportive, sufficient home. When tragedy strikes or turmoil rips a family apart, children are left dislocated

and need a new place to call home, at least for a while.

Because many of these kids grew up in unstable households, some suffer emotional disturbances. Some are grieving the loss of their parents. All have endured more than any child should and all deserve a caring and supportive family. Today, over 500,000 American children still need a temporary home, a foster home. Today, 380,000 have found one, thanks to foster parents.

To the foster parents in Kansas and throughout America, today's vote in Congress is our way of honoring your efforts. You are deeply appreciated, and your contribution doesn't go unnoticed.

I hope that our vote is more than symbolic, that it encourages more families to open their homes to foster children. Caring for a foster child is one of the greatest challenges that you'll ever face, but the reward is immense. You'll help a little girl piece her life back together. You'll help a little boy feel safe and loved. You'll earn the respect of your community, your country, and of this Congress.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 500,000 children in foster care homes around the country. I am proud to support legislation recognizing the dedicated efforts put forth by foster parents.

These men and women open up their homes and their hearts to these youths by providing them with a stable, caring environment for months and, in some cases, years. H. Res. 179 establishes a National Foster Parents Day to praise their contributions to society.

These parents provide a vital role in the welfare and upbringing of children who need emotional support, guidance, and mentors. They teach children family values and morals and help them become significant members of society. Foster parents teach these values to help enable children become stable and confident adults. Children being cared for in foster homes can be traced all the way back to biblical times.

Foster care became increasingly widespread in the United States when Charles Loring Brace, a minister and director of the New York Children's Aid Society, noticed a large number of homeless immigrant children in New York. In 1953, Brace came up with a plan to provide them homes by advertising for families in other areas of the United States who were willing to take them in.

While many of these children were often indentured, Brace's movement is the origin of today's foster care program. Today, foster parents and families provide a safe and nurturing temporary home for children living in unstable conditions. There they can learn and grow until they have the opportunity to return living with their family.